



Building Students' Confidence for the *B2 First*

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Distractors

Listening Part 1 Multiple choice

1 You will hear people talking in eight different situations. Read question 1 then look at the script and choose the best answer (A, B or C).

1 You hear a man talking to a friend about a TV series he is watching.

The man is impressed with

A the soundtrack.

B the acting.

C the plot.

W: Enjoying the new series?

M: Well, yeah, it's OK. The writers have done a great job with the storyline. It draws you in, makes you want to keep watching – like a book you can't put down. It's a shame about the actual script, though – I mean, the actors do their best with their lines, but they all sound very unnatural. And people are saying good things about the music, but I really don't understand why they've used modern songs in a series set in the nineteen twenties.

W: So you're not a fan then?

M: I wouldn't say that. I watched three episodes in a row last night.

2 Look at the script in exercise 1 again and answer the following questions.

a In which part of the script does the answer to question 1 appear; near the beginning, the middle or the end?

b Which nouns are used in the script to avoid using these words from options A and C in the question?

- *soundtrack* - *plot*

c The man makes positive comments about the acting (*the actors do their best with their lines*) and the soundtrack (*people are saying good things about the music*).

Which linking word does he use in both cases to introduce a more negative comment immediately afterwards?

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Distractors

Look at the following sentence beginnings and try to predict the second half of each one. When you have finished compare your ideas with your partner's.

1 He tried to get tickets for the afternoon show, but ...

2 I'd love to see you at the weekend, but ...

3 She used to be an English teacher, but ...

4 Normally, I'd cycle there, ...

5 At first, I thought the series was a bit slow, ...

Now listen to your teacher to compare your answers with what was actually said. How close were your predictions?

[Possible teacher answers:

1 they were all sold out

2 I've got three exams on Monday

3 she wrote a book about a boy wizard and ...

4 but that's not really possible with a broken leg.

5 but it got better after the second episode.]

Creating your own distractors exercise

Desire / Expectation / Intention vs Reality

wanted to / would like to / intended to / expected / thought / was going to /
tried to / were hoping to / is supposed to / was designed to ... but ...

Earlier vs Later

used to / normally / at first / at one time / in the past ... but ...

Other people/places etc vs someone/somewhere else

My sister likes it ... / The bus station is near but ...

Unreal past (... but ... is implied)

I'd probably accept the job if it wasn't so badly paid.

If you'd followed the instructions, it wouldn't have shrunk.

I wish we'd brought the map with us.

Modal verbs (... but ... is implied)

You should have told him.

They could be in the park, I suppose.

She said she might come with us.

Distractors

Listening Part 1

What do the speakers agree about?

You hear two people talking about the twice-weekly fitness class they both attend.

What do they agree about it?

- A There is not much variety.
- B There are too many students.
- C There is not enough equipment.

You should not choose an answer simply because a word or phrase that you hear appears in one of the options (A–C). These words and phrases could be distractors. In addition, for questions like the one above, make sure both speakers share the opinion.

In the following extracts, the sections **in bold** would be distractors for each option (A – C) in the question above. Say why each answer would not be correct.

A There is not much variety.

Man: *Last year was so boring. There was **hardly any variety in the classes.***

Woman: ***Yeah.** This new teacher's a real improvement – every lesson is different.*

B There are too many students.

Man: *I can never hear her instructions. **There are always too many people** talking.*

Woman: ***I know. It's annoying.** And it's always the same four or five students.*

C There is not enough equipment.

Man: ***They should get some more equipment.** That'd make the classes more fun.*

Woman: *I'm not sure **I agree with you.** I think the teacher's the problem.*

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A (1) *Placed / Fixed / Set* in an area of outstanding beauty, Langton Farm is an ideal location for getting away from it all. We have over 300 spacious (2) *itches / parcels / bungalows* which are (3) *disposable / obtainable / available* to rent. There's always (4) *plenty / variety / choice* to do at Langton Farm. In addition to the heated, covered pool and games room, we provide a (5) *long / wide / high* range of activities for all the family every day of the week.

B Book a relaxing (6) *accommodation / reserve / stay* in one of the country's top holiday (7) *resorts / stations / posts* and discover the stunning western shoreline. The four-star Blue Bay Hotel (8) *poses / offers / stands* breathtaking views of the ocean, and the spectacular mile-long sandy beach is just a short walk (9) *afar / away / aside*. An excellent selection of shops, restaurants and nightclubs is also within easy (10) *reach / stretch / touch*, making this the perfect place to spend your holiday on the coast.

C Whether you're looking for a pet-friendly cottage in the countryside or a city-centre flat with disabled (11) *facilities / instalments / elements*, we have something to (12) *agree / suit / allow* your requirements. Search our extensive database for the perfect accommodation in a variety of popular holiday (13) *destinies / destinations / designations*. And if you're planning a last-minute (14) *runaway / breakaway / getaway* we offer special discounts for late bookings. All properties are (15) *fully / greatly / entirely* equipped with bed linen, towels and kitchen appliances to make your holiday as easy as possible.



Word formation

In one word in each of the groups of four below the spelling is incorrect. Find the word and write the correct form.

Adjectives

1	comparative	competative	communicative	imaginative
2	cloudy	windy	fogy	rainy
3	responsable	reasonable	reliable	respectable
4	financial	influencial	commercial	beneficial
5	numerous	dangerous	generous	disasterous
6	nervious	ambitious	anxious	cautious
7	hourly	dayly	weekly	monthly
8	incapable	intolerant	inmature	insincere
9	irregular	illegal	unnecessary	dissapointed
10	frightened	embarassed	annoyed	excited
11	humourous	mysterious	suspicious	advantageous
12	skilful	succesful	beautiful	grateful

Nouns

1	shyness	happyness	carelessness	openness
2	inconvenience	impatience	disappearence	disobedience
3	importance	tolerance	confidance	ignorance
4	announcement	replacement	excitement	goverment
5	explanation	complication	investigation	information
6	accident	accountant	accuracy	accomodation
7	permission	possession	decission	impression
8	anxiety	equality	ability	generosity

Ingredients for writing: **VALORE**

- **VARIETY**

range of vocabulary & structures

- **ANSWER THE QUESTION**

underline key points in the question

- **LINKING**

part of organisation / not only 'linkers'

- **ORGANISATION**

planning and logical paragraphs

- **REGISTER**

formal, informal or neutral

- **ERRORS**

check grammar, spelling, repetition ...

Introduction / Opening paragraph

First point

Second point

Third point

Conclusion / Closing comments

MACMILLAN EDUCATION
ENGLISH WEDNESDAYS

Possible variations

Story

1 Background 2 (& 3) Development 3 (or 4) Dénouement

Letter of application

1 Introduction (*I would like to apply*) 2 Reasons for applying

3 Relevant skills and experience 4 Suitability for the job

Cohesion

Cohesive devices

Conjunctions	<i>but, although, so, while</i>
Discourse markers	<i>as a result, however, anyway, fortunately</i>
Demonstrative adjectives	<i>this, that, these, those</i>
Reference pronouns	<i>she, him, this, one</i>
Possessive adjectives	<i>his, her, your, their</i>
Adverbs of place and time	<i>here, there, then</i>
Substitution and ellipsis	<i>I enjoyed the first series, but not this one.</i>

Avoiding repetition.

In sentences 1-8, replace the words in **bold** with one from the box.

You do not need to use all the words in the box.

did	do	not	no	one	so
some	there	these	this	would	yes

1 Many people prefer working from home. However, **working from home** is not always possible.

2 Are you the kind of person that doesn't know how to play a musical instrument but wishes they **knew how to play a musical instrument**?

3 You really should go and see this show; if **you don't go and see this show**, you'll regret it.

4 His first film was excellent, but this **film** did not receive good reviews.

5 Amy ran to the shop as fast as she could, but when she got **to the shop** she realised she didn't have any money.

6 There are restaurants in the city centre that serve only vegan food, but **vegan restaurants in the city centre** are not very common.

7 I know you don't like camping, but I **like camping**.

8 I'm not sure if my sister will be able to come with us, but I hope **she'll be able to come with us**.

1 this 2 did 3 not 4 one 5 there 6 these 7 do 8 so